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| Family violence and child wellbeing and safety reforms |
| Information for people receiving Department of Families, Fairness and Housing services |

# What is family violence?

Family violence:

* is when a person that is considered a family member (including a partner, an ex-partner or an extended family member/s) uses threatening, controlling or violent behaviour that makes someone (an adult or a child) feel scared or afraid for themselves or for another person
* can be physical, emotional, financial, sexual, psychological or verbal abuse
* can involve many harmful, abusive behaviours.

**Family violence is never okay.**

# How can I access support?

If there is an emergency, and you need immediate help, call triple zero (000).

If it is not an emergency but you need help, call Safe Steps on 1800 015 188. Safe Steps is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year.

# Family violence legislation

## Child and Family Violence Information Sharing Schemes

In Victoria there are laws that make it easier for organisations and services to share information to keep families and communities safer.

The Child Information Sharing Scheme allows authorised organisations and services to share information to promote the wellbeing or safety of children.

The Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme allows authorised organisations and services to share information to assess and manage family violence risk to children and adults.

These Schemes are being implemented with the Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework (MARAM).

## MARAM

MARAM helps organisations and services to identify, assess and manage family violence risk.

MARAM will:

* increase the safety and wellbeing of Victorians
* help services to work together better to keep families safer
* create a shared understanding of family violence
* help more people access supports.

# Who can share information?

People and services that can share information include:

* doctors and nurses
* ambulance attendants
* maternal and child health
* hospitals
* schools
* childcare centres
* community housing and community health organisations
* child protection
* housing, through the Department of Families Fairness and Housing
* police
* courts.

# More information

For more information about MARAM and the information sharing schemes, visit [Information sharing and MARAM reforms](http://www.infosharing.vic.gov.au/) <www.infosharing.vic.gov.au>.

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